In the Specification:

Please amend the specification, fourth paragraph counting from the first paragraph of the specification (such paragraph was added in Amendment dated November 8, 2004) as follows:

U.S. Pat. No. 5, 683,404 to Johnson, entitled "Clamp and Method for its Use", further discusses shape memory materials that are "pseudo-elastic", defining these materials to be super-elastic, because ~~in terms~~ of their ability to exhibit ~~SUPER~~super - elastic/pseudo-elastic recovery characteristics at room temperature. In other words, a material is super-elastic when, if sufficient stresses are applied, s~~S~~uch materials ~~are said to~~ exhibit martensitic activation (i.e., deform from an austenitic crystal structure to a stress-induced structure postulated to be martensitic in nature), returning thence to the austenitic state when the stress is removed. The alternate crystal structures described give the alloy ~~SUPER~~super-elastic or pseudo-elastic properties. Poisson's Ratio for nitinol is about 0.3, but this ratio significantly increases up to approximately 0.5 or more when the shape memory alloy is stretched beyond its initial elastic limit. It is at this point that stress-induced martensite is said to occur, i.e., the point beyond which the material is permanently deformed and thus incapable of returning to its initial austenitic shape. A special tool is employed by Johnson to impart an external stretching force that deforms the material which force is then released to cause the material to return to its original condition. While the device is stretched, a member is captured by it and securely clamped when the stretching force is released. This device is intended for use in clamping and does not contemplate traditional connecting operations of the kind addressed by the present invention. Another use envisioned by Johnson is in connecting the modular components of a medical device, as described in his U.S. Pat. No. 5,858,020, by subjecting a thimble component made of shape memory material to an external stretching stimulus to elongate and thereby reduce its transverse dimension. Upon release of the stretching force, this component returns towards its original rest dimension, contacting and imparting a force on another

component. This is a sequential stretching and relaxation of the ~~SUPER~~super -elastic material rather than a simultaneous activation and retention operation. Also, special structures are necessary on the thimble to allow the stretching force to be imparted.